

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-12 are pending.

Claim Objections:

Claim 7 has been amended to remove the quotation marks. Withdrawal of the claim objection is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,579,754, hereinafter *Mauer*.

Independent Claim 1 is amended to recite a personalized multilayer support comprising, among other elements, marker lines comprising weld beads formed at the interface of a film and a card body, the weld beads delimiting zones of the film having increased mechanical strength, and independent Claim 7 is similarly amended. Claims 2 and 8 are cancelled.

The present application is directed to a card comprising fracture initiation scores and an associated method. In an embodiment of the invention disclosed in paragraph [0047] of the published application, marker lines forming the scores comprise weld beads at the interface between the film and the body of the card, the weld beads delimiting zones of the film having increased mechanical strength. Other embodiments of the invention include different types of marker lines, e.g., grooves. In this regard, it is disclosed in paragraph [0070] of the published application that, in

a method of making a card according to an embodiment of the invention, a laser beam is used to obtain various types of marker lines, and that both the power and the focal point of the laser beam are adjusted, depending on the type of marker line to be obtained. Furthermore, in a method of making a card according to an alternate embodiment of the invention, it is disclosed in paragraph [0081] of the published application to form the weld beads by hot-marking using heat masks.

On page 3, lines 4-6 of the Official Action, the Examiner maintains regarding the weld beads that, in *Mauer*, "the material remaining between the film and body after heat is transferred to the areas of 15-17 and 29, for example, by the laser constitutes a weld bead". Assuming for the sake of argument (without conceding the propriety of the position) that this material comprises a "weld bead", the recitation in Claims 1 and 7 as amended that the weld beads delimit zones of the film having increased mechanical strength is not anticipated by *Mauer* as discussed below.

As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3 of *Mauer*, the affected areas 15-17 and 29 are not at the interface of the film and the body. Furthermore, the reference is silent as to whether any non-negligible amount of heat reaches the film at the interface during the production of areas 15-17 and 29, and what, if any, effect such heat would have on the film at the interface, i.e., whether such heat would delimit zones of the film having increased mechanical strength. By way of comparison, the weld beads 30 illustrated in Figures 3C and 3D of the application are clearly at the interface of the film 12 and the body 22, and, as discussed above, the present disclosure provides for forming of such weld beads at the interface delimiting zones of the film having increased mechanical strength by adjusting the focal point of the laser beam or by hot-marking using heat masks. Neither of these steps is disclosed in *Mauer*.

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 7 are allowable over *Mauer*, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1 and 7 as being anticipated by *Mauer*. If the Examiner maintains the rejection, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide evidence that weld beads delimiting zones of the film having increased mechanical strength are necessarily present in *Mauer* as required for inherency.

Furthermore, Claims 3-6, 8 and 10 are allowable over *Mauer* for at least the same reasons as Claims 1 and 7.

New Claims:

New Claims 11 and 12 depend from Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are directed to at least a portion of the marker lines being of the same shape as at least a portion of the personal information. Claims 11 and 12 are independently allowable and are fully supported at least by paragraph [0073] of the published application.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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